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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Activities at Stalin Naval Base

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1. BASE IN STALIN (VARNA) -- The headquarters of the Stalin Naval Base are located in new barracks which are situated near the Naval Shipyards for small minesweepers and freighters for food and supplies. Before 9 Sep 44, the commander of the Stalin Base was Colonel Tonkov who was killed on 9 Sep 44. Colonel Tsanchev, a Communist, but an old-army officer, was named commander. Between the mobile bridge and the barracks is located the "Bulgariya" Korabostroitelnitza ("Bulgaria" Shipyards) which is outside the base, but on the same canal. New naval vessels are constructed in this shipyard. A large storehouse for mines, shells, and other military supplies is located in the area of the base.
2. TORPEDO BOATS (TORPEDONOSTSI) -- The following torpedo boats are located at the Stalin Base: "Druzki," "Smeli," "Khrabri," and "Strogi." These four torpedo boats are 160-ton ships with steam boilers and an 18-man crew. They can attain a speed of 18 knots. They have two naval guns and two MG-34 machine guns. The "Kamchiya" is a 250-ton torpedo boat which transports food for border posts and also serves as a training ship for young officers from the School for Reserve Officers. It has four MG-34 machine guns and two large caliber naval guns. The "Asen" is a 250-300-ton training ship armed with a naval gun of approximately 65 mm, two small guns, and two MG-34 machine guns. The "Chernomorets" and the "Belomorets" are 160-180-ton torpedo boats with an 18-man crew. They have Diesel motors, two naval guns and two MG-34 machine guns.
3. PATROL TORPEDO BOATS (CUTTERS) (TORPEDNI LODKI, KATERI) -- At the Stalin Base there are four UK-made patrol torpedo boats which can attain a speed of 45 knots per hour. There are three German patrol torpedo boats which can attain 34 knots per hour. There are a number of new Soviet patrol torpedo boats, (the exact number is unknown but there are more than fifteen) which can reach a speed of 40 knots an hour. The patrol torpedo boats have two small automatic guns and two MG-34 machine guns. At the Stalin Base there are minesweepers which are now being used for the defense of the shore and which were formerly used for minesweeping. They are also being used for transporting sailors, food and equipment. The minesweepers have two MG-34 machine guns.

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4. THE BARRACKS OF "SVETI KONSTANTIN" (QUARTER ONE COMPANY) -- These barracks serve for one naval unit and for the training of young sailors who, after finishing their training, are sent to another naval unit.
5. A SPECIAL NAVAL BATTALION (MORYASHKA DRUZHINA) -- In the region of the naval base in Stalin a special naval battalion is located where seamen are specialized as border troops, radio and telegraph operators, telephone operators, search-light operators, divers, and artillery specialists. The special battalion has four companies, each having four platoons of 52 men each. Each company has 208 men without officers or noncommissioned officers. There are five officers, three noncommissioned officers, one petty officer (fel'tebel), and 12 section (otdel'anni) commanders. The men are armed with Soviet Schmeisser carbines with a circular magazine (krugul pulnitel). Each platoon has a "Schwartzlose" heavy machine gun and two light machine guns. The noncommissioned officers are armed with 9 mm and 7.65 mm "Walter" pistols. The officers are armed with 9mm "Walter" pistols. The seamen of the battalion guard the gasoline, petroleum, and gas at the former "Mineral Oyl" Stock Company which is now nationalized. They guard the Stalin local prison, the barracks, and perform night-guard duty around Stalin. One company from the special battalion in Stalin is now located in Sozopol, from which seamen are sent to border posts to strengthen defenses. A border poduchastuk (post) of at least 50 sailors is located in Tserovo. It serves as guard for headquarters, for the post, and for the defense of the harbor. It also operates a shore-observation post. The commander of the unit is an officer. Fifteen km from Sozopol in the direction of Burgas there is a border uchastuk district called "Atiya," and the commander of the post for the defense of the border is a noncommissioned officer. It has sixteen seamen.
6. GUARD DUTY AT THE SPECIAL BATTALION (DRUZHINA) IN STALIN -- The guard duty in the battalion is very severe since the political commissars appoint as sentries (kontrolni chasovi) those sailors who are members of the Dimitrov's Union of People's Youth or those who are members of the battalion Communist Party organization. An information report from a "kontrolen chasovoy" is law to those in command who immediately sentence the accused sailor. This happens everyday. Upon the arrival of Soviet steamships, the defenses and guards are strengthened and a special platoon is on guard throughout the night, especially when uranium ore or goods for the USSR are being loaded.

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